

September 15, 2006

**Public Notice for 401 Water Quality Certification and/or  
Notice of Coverage, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements  
for Minor Dredging and Fill Activities  
Bloomfield Channel Sediment Removal Project  
Sonoma County Water Agency  
Sonoma County (WDID No. 1B06074WNSO)**

On May 23, 2006, the North Coast Regional Water Quality Control Board (Regional Water Board) received an application from Mr. Ken Schwarz of Jones & Stokes, on behalf of the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), requesting a Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirements (Dredge/Fill Projects) for the SCWA Bloomfield Channel Sediment Removal Project, Sonoma County. The proposed project will impact Waters of the State associated with the Estero Americano Hydrologic Sub Area No. 115.30, Bodega Hydrologic Unit No. 115.00.

The proposed project is located on Bloomfield Channel, within the town of Bloomfield, Sonoma County. The purpose of the project is to remove accumulated sediment from the Bloomfield Creek in-channel concrete structure. The project is necessary to restore hydraulic capacity to previous conditions and to prevent possible flooding of adjacent homes and properties. The proposed project will consist of removal of approximately 800 cubic yards of sediment from the Bloomfield Channel concrete in-channel structure and box culvert structure to restore hydraulic capacity in the channel.

Bloomfield Creek is an intermittent stream and dries out during summer months. Because activities would be conducted during the dry season, no dewatering will be required. Sediment will be removed from the in-channel structure using an excavator from the adjacent top of bank staging area, outside the channel. To remove sediment from inside the box culvert bridge, a small backhoe or bulldozer (e.g. Bobcat) will be lowered onto the concrete structure. No equipment will be placed within the natural channel. Excavated material will be placed directly on to the adjacent disposal site. Staging will occur in the parking lot of Stormy's Bloomfield Tavern, adjacent to the northern edge of the channel. Excavated material will be disposed of on the western portion of the Stormy's Tavern parcel.

Compensatory mitigation for this project is not required.

Non-compensatory mitigation will include the use of best management practices (BMPs) to prevent soil erosion or discharge of sediment to Waters of the State.

The Regional Water Board, as the lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) agency, has determined the project qualifies for Categorical Exemption, Section 15301 – Existing Facilities, pursuant to the CEQA guidelines.

The project is scheduled to begin September 2006, and end prior to October 15, 2006. Staff is proposing to regulate this project pursuant to Section 401 of the Clean Water Act (33 USC 1341) and/or Porter-Cologne Water Quality Control Act Authority. Under Title 23, California Code of Regulations, Section 3858(a): "The executive director or the executive officer with whom an application for certification is filed shall provide public notice of an application at least twenty-one (21) days before taking certification action on the application, unless the public notice requirement has been adequately satisfied by the applicant or federal agency. If the applicant or federal agency provides public notice, it shall be in a manner and to an extent fully equivalent to that normally provided by the certifying agency. If an emergency requires that certification be issued in less than 21 days, public notice shall be provided as much in advance of issuance as possible, but no later than simultaneously with issuance of certification."

Due to the urgent nature of this project and to avoid an emergency situation, Notice of Coverage, Waiver of Waste Discharge Requirements for Minor Dredging and Fill Activities will be issued during the 21-day public comment period. Public comments will still be accepted and reviewed during the entire 21-day comment period; and the certification may be modified. If you have any questions or comments, please contact staff member Stephen Bargsten at (707) 576-2653, or at [Sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:Sbargsten@waterboards.ca.gov) within 21 days of the posting of this notice.

The related documents and comments received are on file and may be inspected or copied at the Regional Water Board office, 5550 Skylane Boulevard, Suite A, Santa Rosa, California. Appointments are recommended for document review. Appointments can be made by calling (707) 576-2220.